

If it be proposed as a measure of economy, let us not act precipitately, lest we may have the expence of a Convention, and also of two capitols; for if the rebuilding of the old edifice be not approved by the people, they will assemble a Convention and erect another at the place of their choice.

It is confidently asserted, that a majority of the people are opposed to a general Convention; let that fact be ascertained, and we are ready to acquiesce in the decision. It is our purpose to ascertain the public sentiment on this subject; and it is our wish to obtain time for its deliberate and unbiassed expression. Let us not be alarmed by the horrors which have been pourtrayed, and the dangers which have been depicted in such glowing colors. We have been told of the unrestrained power of the people when assembled in Convention; and of the insecurity of life and property at such a crisis. The dissolution of the principles of our political association—the annihilation of the elements of social order—have been presented in terrifying array. We are admonished of man's unlimited thirst for power—of the tempestuous violence of his infuriated passions—which, like a desolating tornado, will pass with devastating fury through the country.

Let us recur to history, which is "Philosophy teaching by example;" there we can derive benefit from lessons of experience; let us turn to the history of our own State, and one historical fact will put down this mighty incantation. In '76 our ancestors having cut the Gordian knot which bound them to the British empire, having broken the bonds of political association by which they were bound to each other, having thrown themselves on first principles—and being for a period without the restraints of any organized government, met in Convention, and formed our present Constitution. *Where, then, were* the dangers incident to man's thirst for power, what then stayed the desolating fury of his passions? Systematic preparations were made for defence against the common enemy, and good order was preserved. Should the people, now, meet in Convention, the present Constitution will remain in force, until it be abrogated by the legitimate establishment of another system of government; there would be no interregnum—there need be no interval of exemption from the restraints of government, no period of anarchy and disorder.

But the people will be satisfied with a limited Convention, one assembled for specified purposes; they complain not of the Executive and Judicial branches of the government, they wish only a reformation of the Legislative Department—to establish a just and equal ratio of representation, and to designate a place for the exercise of its legislative functions. It is said a restricted Convention is a solecism. It is true, when the people themselves meet in